

HB 909 -- DISPOSITION OF HUMAN REMAINS

SPONSOR: Fraker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass Consent" by the Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill permits the next-of-kin to delegate the control of the final disposition of the remains of any dead human being to an agent through either a specific or general grant of power in accordance with Section 404.710, RSMo, if, at the time of delegation, the next-of-kin is 18 years of age or older and mentally competent and the principal or agent is taking financial responsibility for the disposition.

This bill is similar to HB 2522 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that currently, the law is unclear about what can be done if the next-of-kin isn't available to make the arrangements for the disposition of the remains. These types of arrangements are obviously very time sensitive and there are any number of reasons why the next-of-kin wouldn't be immediately available. This bill would help provide clarity.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fraker and the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.